

Government of the District of Columbia

Department of Transportation



Introduction

The District Department of Transportation (DDOT)'s mission is to ensure safe and efficient commercial vehicle movement through the District of Columbia while mitigating impacts on communities and transportation infrastructure. Trucks currently make up approximately six percent of total traffic in the District, but their volumes are projected to increase as mixed-use areas, neighborhood retail, and the prevalence for home delivery rise within the District as well. In 2010, the District developed a truck and bus route system to manage truck and bus traffic in the city (see map at www.godcgo.com/truckandbusmap.com). DDOT identified designated truck routes and through-truck-restricted routes based on engineering characteristics, roadway classification, planner review, industry and community feedback, and field observations. Designated routes are roads that can accommodate high truck traffic volumes and/or serve as major freight generators. Restricted routes are those that, due to security, inadequate capacity, or residential quality, may not be used by through trucks or buses. However, few streets in the District of Columbia are completely restricted to trucks. Except for a few locations near sensitive federal structures, a truck restriction means that the street is closed to through truck traffic, but open to those making local deliveries.

Truck Restriction Eligibility

In order to restrict a street to through truck travel, the street must meet the following criteria:

- The street must be classified as a “local” street. Find your street classification here: <http://ddot.dc.gov/publication/functional-classification-map>
- The street must NOT be a primary bus or truck route
- The street must NOT be a primary emergency vehicle route (such as a main approach to a hospital or fire house)
- The observed truck traffic must be 50% of the truck traffic observed on truck routes in the District and must not be construction-related or a result of a temporary increase in traffic
- The truck traffic observed must not be traveling to/from a destination on the requested street or a nearby street.

Potential Impacts

Like many operational changes to the transportation network, restricting a street to through truck traffic can result in both positive and negative impacts. When considering a through truck restriction request, the public should consider the fact that through trucks, when restricted from one street, will change their travel to another street in the area. Based on DC's existing Truck & Bus Route and Restrictions designations (www.godcgo.com/truckandbusmap.com), the public is urged to propose an alternate route for the requested street restriction.

Truck Restriction Signage

If your street, after evaluation, is deemed appropriate for a through-truck restriction, DDOT will install the appropriate truck restriction signage. The District's Municipal Regulations currently include two types of through-truck restrictions: 1) No Through Trucks Over 1 ¼ Ton Capacity, and 2) No Through Trucks Over 2 Axles. The first restriction refers not to the weight, but to the amount of capacity a vehicle can carry, in order to restrict large vehicles carrying large and/or heavy loads. The second restriction limits the number of axles on a vehicle, in order to restrict heavy vehicles from a roadway. Please note that except for a few locations near sensitive federal structures, a DDOT only designated roadways as through-truck restricted, meaning that through truck traffic is prohibited, but trucks making local deliveries are allowed.

Request Process

If you would like to request a through-truck restriction, a request must be submitted via 311 for a Traffic Safety Investigation and include the following information:

- Street Classification: [<http://ddot.dc.gov/publication/functional-classification-map>]
- Reason for Request:
- Truck Traffic Description: [vehicle type – see appendix, company, time of day, volume]
- Proposed Alternative Route for Truck Traffic:

The initial criteria that must be met for DDOT to approve a new through-truck restriction is as follows:

1. The street must be classified as a “local” street, as per DDOT's functional street classification map: <http://ddot.dc.gov/publication/functional-classification-map>
2. The street must not be a primary bus or truck route, as designated by the District based on the agency's functional classification system, the District's roadway network, land uses and destinations, community input, and additional criteria: <http://godcgo.com/freight/> (scroll for DC Bus & Truck interactive map)
3. The street must not be a primary emergency vehicle route (such as a main approach to a hospital or fire house)

Once those initial criteria are met, DDOT will conduct field observations and/or traffic analysis to see if roadway meets the following secondary criteria:

4. The observed truck traffic must be 50% of the truck traffic observed on truck routes in the District and must not be construction-related or a result of a temporary increase in traffic
5. The truck or bus traffic observed must not be traveling to/from a nearby destination.

If all criteria are met, DDOT will issue a Notice of Intent, and assuming no comments have changed DDOT's intended course of action, install the through-truck restriction, and add the through-truck restriction to the DC Truck and Bus map.


Enforcement Process

Residents are requested to provide more details about truck traffic that needs enforcement via a 311 traffic calming request, including type of truck traffic, specific streets, and times of the day. Detailed information provided by the community in a 311 request helps determine the approach and personnel best suited to the situation.

- If the trucks are construction vehicles, DDOT's public space regulation division inspectors are best suited to manage the situation.
- If the issue is related to cut-through truck traffic along streets that are already through-truck restricted, DDOT will work with its enforcement partners in the MPD to enforce existing regulations.
- In all other circumstances, DDOT will conduct an investigation to assess any needed changes to the routes and restrictions framework in the area.

As a reminder, vehicles making local deliveries within the community are allowed to travel along through-truck restricted streets.

Appendix: Vehicle Type Glossary

Vehicle Type	Max Length (ft)	Max width (ft)	Max ht (ft)	Picture
Box Truck	~13 - 22	~8.5	~ 8 - 9	
Trash Truck	~35 - 40	~8 - 8.5	~13 - 13.6	
Dump Truck	~24 - 40	~8 - 8.5	~12	
Tractor Trailer	~61 - 77	~8.5	~13 - 13.6	
Bus	~30 - 40	~8	~10.5 - 13.2	
Concrete Truck	~24 - 40	~8 - 8.5	~10.2 - 12	
Utility Truck	~20	~8	~6.5 - 7	
Flat Bed Truck	~75	~8.5	~13 - 13.6	